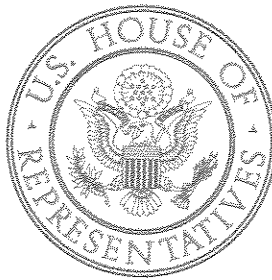


COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES  
STRATEGIC FORCES  
  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY  
INTELLIGENCE AND  
COUNTERTERRORISM  
  
CYBERSECURITY, SCIENCE, AND  
RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT  
  
RULES



WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
1039 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4506  
FAX: (202) 226-0777

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
☐ MIAMI-DADE  
111 N.W. 183RD STREET  
SUITE 315  
MIAMI GARDENS, FL 33169  
(305) 690-6906  
FAX: (305) 690-5951  
☐ BROWARD  
10100 PINES BOULEVARD  
BUILDING B, 3RD FLOOR  
PEMBROKE PINES, FL 33026  
(954) 450-6767  
FAX: (954) 450-8768

## CONGRESSMAN KENDRICK B. MEEK

October 13, 2004

President George W. Bush  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write to ask that you change the position you have inflexibly maintained, in the face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary, and finally use the authority that Congress provided to you to immediately grant Temporary Protective Status (TPS) to Haitians. It is long past time to put an immediate stop to the deportation of Haitians from this country. Nevertheless, your administration has deported or repatriated over 90 Haitians since May 2004, 17 of which occurred in late September 2004, well after Tropical Storm Jeanne ravaged Haiti.

You may already be familiar with my request. Since February 2004, when armed political insurrection and regime change in Haiti supported by your Administration created a dangerous environment for Haitian deportees, I have written to Attorney General Ashcroft, Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge and Secretary of State Colin Powell to ask these deportations stop. I introduced a resolution in Congress, H. Res. 542, with over 50 cosponsors, calling upon your Administration to grant Haitians TPS. I even wrote to your brother, Florida Governor Jeb Bush, when he visited Haiti for a day last June, and asked him to help get your Administration to grant TPS for Haitians. Still, your Administration did nothing.

Denying Haitians TPS flies in the face of the facts in Haiti. Our own Department of State has issued a travel warning today that there is the "...absence of an effective police force in Haiti; the potential for looting; the presence of intermittent roadblocks set by armed gangs or by the police; and the possibility of random violent crime, including kidnapping, car-jacking, and assault. There has been a noticeable escalation in criminal and gang activity since September 30." Human rights groups cite numerous instances of Haitians deported back to Haiti who have never been heard from again.

In addition to the breakdown of governmental order, Haiti suffered devastating floods in the spring and, most recently, just a few weeks ago, which killed thousands. Public health, transportation, food distribution, housing, education and every other part of Haitian society have been severely disrupted. The country is in ruins.

I do not know what more it would take to convince you that conditions in Haiti are simply too dangerous to justify the deportations that your Administration continues to carry out. The time has come to act, Mr. President. Further delays, more study and empty promises are simply unacceptable.

Stop the deportation of Haitians, and please do so immediately.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kendrick B. Meek".

KENDRICK B. MEEK  
Member of Congress